

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

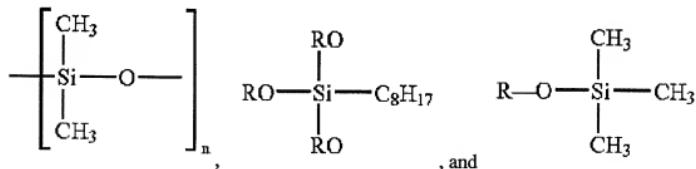
1. (Previously presented) Adhesive and sealant composition comprising a member selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, and polysulfones, containing 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% of a compacted hydrophobic, pyrogenic silica, wherein the silica has been compacted by a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt and as a result of said silica being compacted in such way said adhesive and sealant composition is rendered thixotropic and the time required for incorporating said compacted hydrophobic pyrogenic silica into said adhesive and sealant composition is reduced compared to the time required for incorporation into said composition of silica that has not been compacted with a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt.
2. (Previously presented) The adhesive and sealant composition according to claim 1 wherein the silica displays a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l.
3. (Previously presented) A method for reducing the time needed to incorporate compacted hydrophobic silicas into adhesives and sealant compositions in order to render them thixotropic comprising incorporating a compacted hydrophobic silica in the amount of 1 wt% to 15 wt% into a member selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene- acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl

acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene- butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, and polysulfones. Wherein the compacted hydrophobic silica has a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l, and wherein the silica has been compacted by a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt and as a result of said silica being compacted in such way said adhesive and sealant compositions are rendered thixotropic and the time required for incorporating said compacted hydrophobic pyrogenic silica into said adhesive and sealant compositions is reduced compared to the time required for incorporation into such compositions of silica that has not been compacted with a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt.

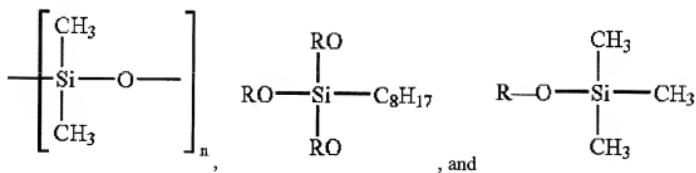
4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein the time needed to prepare thixotropic adhesives and sealants is shorter than would be the time required to prepare thixotropic adhesives and sealants using compacted hydrophobic silica having a compacted bulk density of 50 g/l.

6. (New) The adhesive and sealant composition according to claim 1 wherein the silica is selected from the group consisting of



7. (New) The method according to claim 3 wherein the silica is selected from the group consisting of



8. (New) The adhesive and sealant composition according to claim 1 wherein the silica is selected from the group consisting of AEROSIL® R 202 VV 60, AEROSIL® R 202 VV 90, AEROSIL® R 805 VV 60, AEROSIL® R 805 VV 90, AEROSIL® R 812 VV 60, AEROSIL® R 812 VV 90, AEROSIL® R 812S VV 60, and AEROSIL® R 812S VV 90.

9. (New) The method according to claim 3 wherein the silica is selected from the group consisting of AEROSIL® R 202 VV 60, AEROSIL® R 202 VV 90, AEROSIL® R 805 VV 60, AEROSIL® R 805 VV 90, AEROSIL® R 812 VV 60, AEROSIL® R 812 VV 90, AEROSIL® R 812S VV 60, and AEROSIL® R 812S VV 90.